

Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Longnose Darter

Percina nasuta

Common name • Longnose Darter

Scientific name • *Percina nasuta*

State status • Endangered

Ecology

The longnose darter is an inhabitant of medium to large Ozark rivers in Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. During most of the year, these darters prefer riffles in quiet backwaters with thick growths of aquatic vegetation. During spawning in the spring, they move into areas of stronger current. Longnose darters forage on aquatic insects. Adults typically reach a length of 2-3.8 inches.

Reasons for Decline

Longnose darters were historically found in several rivers in southwestern Missouri. In the mid-1900s, construction of impoundments to form reservoirs likely eliminated much of their habitat. Stray longnose darters may be found in reservoirs, but they are likely not part of a self-sustaining population. In addition, activities that increase sedimentation and non-point source pollution may affect remaining habitat.

Specific Recommendations

Free-flowing rivers provide habitat for many species, including the longnose darter. Any projects that alter this type of habitat should be modified to minimize impacts.

→ Project activities should not occur between March 15 and June 15 below the high water level of streams within the range of the longnose darter.

→ Sand and gravel removal should be avoided in streams with potential habitat for longnose darters.

→ Creation of impoundments should be avoided in longnose darter habitat.

→ Sand bars and similar riverine features should be maintained, and project activities should not occur on or near them in order to maintain habitat for longnose darters.

→ Erosion and sediment controls should be implemented, maintained and monitored for the duration of the project.

→ Avoid altering water levels in streams where longnose darters are found.

→ For culvert installation, the top elevation of the floor should be approximately the same as the existing streambed to avoid upstream headcutting and provide fish passage at low flows.

General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers and Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Wetlands.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers, streams and wetlands, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Policy Coordination Section
P.O. Box 180
2901 W. Truman Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Telephone: 913/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
608 E. Cherry Street, Room 200
Columbia, MO 65201
Telephone: 573/876-1911

Disclaimer

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